Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 INRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /048 W

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OR 231651Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5084

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 01265

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EAIR, WB, CY, UK, US

SUBJECT: MAINTENANCE OF CYPRUS (ERCAN) BASED AERO-AMERICA AIRCRAFT IN BERLIN

REF: A. BONN 454 B. BONN 687 C. STATE 9350

1. AEROAMERICA OFFICE IN BERLIN HAS APPLIED FOR CORRIDOR CLEARANCE TO BRING A B-720 IT HAS WET-LEASED TO CYPRUS TURKISH AIRWAYS (CTA) TO BERLIN FOR MAINTENANCE AND RETURN TO ERCAN. AIRCRAFT IS CURRENTLY IN CTA LIVERY BUT THIS WILL BE REMOVED OR COVERED SO THAT IT WOULD APPEAR IN BERLIN WITH NO AIRLINE MARKINGS. CONFIDENTIAL

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AIRCRAFT IS AMERICAN OWNED, CREWED AND REGISTERED.

2. ASIDE FROM PROBLEM OF HAVING ERCAN AS ITS BASE AND CONSEQUENT INVOLVEMENT IN CYPRUS INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, THIS REQUEST RAISES PROBLEMS FROM BERLIN ASPECT AS WELL. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHETHER PRINCIPLE OF FREE ACCESS TO BERLIN BY ALLIED AIRCRAFT INCLUDES

FLIGHTS HAVING NO CONNECTION WITH THE AVIATION NEEDS OF BERLIN. IT IS CERTAIN THAT SOVIETS WOULD CONSIDER SUCH FLIGHTS A MISUSE OF THE CORRIDORS. A 720 WITH NO OR COVERED LIVERY IS VERY LIKELY TO BE NOTICED IN BERLIN AND MIGHT RECEIVE PRESS ATTENTION.

COMMENT: WE SEE LITTLE OR NO ADVANTAGE TO BERLIN IN PERMITTING THIS FLIGHT AND A GOOD POSSIBILITY OF DIFFICULTIES VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIETS. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE UNSURE THAT WE HAVE VALID GROUNDS FOR REFUSING CLEARANCE. CYPRUS ASPECT, OF COURSE IS BEYOND OUR SCOPE.

ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON PROPRIETY OF CLEARANCE FROM VIEWPOINT OF BERLIN AND GUIDANCE ON HOW EMBASSY SHOULD DEAL WITH CYPRUS ASPECT.

STOESSEL

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